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LETTER DATED 29 OCTOBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 29 October 1997 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, calling attention to the fact that violations of Iraq's airspace by Turkish military aircraft are continuing and urging the United Nations to meet its responsibilities as laid down in the Charter and halt the intimidation and aggression to which Iraq is constantly being subjected.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 29 October 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to my letter of 21 August 1997 (S/1997/664, annex), I should like to call your attention to the fact that the Turkish encroachments on Iraq's territory and airspace are still recurring, as exemplified by the aerial violations being committed by Turkish fighter aircraft in northern Iraq.

A total of 38 such violations were committed between 14 August and 19 October 1997.

In informing you of these violations, of which details are given in the list enclosed herewith, I should like to convey to you a strong protest at the acts and abuses being perpetrated by the Turkish armed forces. They are clearly incompatible with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, and they constitute a breach of the principles governing relations of good-neighbourliness and of the 1926 Iraq-Turkey boundary agreement and represent a manifest threat to international peace and security.

The Turkish Government is trying to find pretexts and excuses for these acts of aggression, flimsy as they are, while it is that Government itself that is causing the creation of an anomalous situation in northern Iraq with its continued cooperation with the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom in maintaining an unlawful no-flight zone.

As I have said in my previous letters, the Turkish Government bears full international responsibility for the acts of aggression it commits inside Iraqi territory and for all their consequences, regardless of the alleged reasons it gives.

The Government of Iraq reserves its legitimate right under international law to determine an appropriate response to this brutal military aggression and to seek compensation for the damage caused by these Turkish violations of Iraq's territory and airspace and for the human suffering inflicted on Iraqi citizens by these repeated acts of aggression.

At the same time, the Government of the Republic of Iraq renews its call to the Government of Turkey to reconsider its dangerous policy, which clearly contributes to perpetuating the anomalous situation in northern Iraq in cooperation with the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom, of implementing a dangerous scheme for interference in the internal affairs of Iraq.

As, through you, I reiterate my country's call to Turkey to respect Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity, I express the hope that the United Nations will meet its responsibilities as laid down in the Charter and that it will halt the intimidation and aggression to which my country is constantly being subjected.

I transmit to you herewith a list of the Turkish assaults on Iraq's territory and people between 14 August and 9 October 1997.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

Enclosure

Turkish attacks on Iraqi territory, 14 August-9 October 1997

1. Between 0925 and 1005 hours on 14 August 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah, Zakho and Batufah areas.

2. Between 1815 and 1830 hours on 17 August 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Batufah area.

3. Between 1925 and 1940 hours on 19 August 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Zakho and Batufah areas.

4. Between 1230 and 1320 hours on 20 August 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with six sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah, Baibo and Aqrah areas.

5. Between 0810 and 0839 hours on 21 August 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah area.

6. Between 0925 and 1005 hours on 14 August 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah, Zakho and Batufah areas.

7. Between 1517 and 1522 hours on 23 August 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with one sortie. The violation was centred on the Amadiyah area.

8. Between 1225 and 1622 hours on 25 August 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with seven sorties. The violations were centred on the Irbil North, Koysanjaq North, Dukan dam, Aqrah, Sarsank, Rawanduz, Shaykhan, Batufah, Baibo and Amadiyah areas.

9. Between 0930 and 1654 hours on 26 August 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with five sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah, Zakho, Sharanish and Baibo areas.

10. Between 1435 and 1500 hours on 28 August 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with four sorties. The violations were centred on the Zakho and Sharanish areas.

11. Between 1240 and 1602 hours on 1 September 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Zakho district.

12. Between 1535 and 1608 hours on 2 September 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Zakho area.

13. Between 1034 and 1125 hours on 3 September 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah and Zakho areas.

14. Between 1203 and 1405 hours on 8 September 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah area.

15. Between 1230 and 1300 hours on 10 September 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with four sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah and Baibo areas.

16. Between 1223 and 1310 hours on 11 September 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with four sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah and Baibo areas.

17. Between 1120 and 1447 hours on 15 September 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah area.

18. Between 1420 and 1432 hours on 22 September 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah area.

19. Between 1805 and 1815 hours on 24 September 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with one sortie. The violation was centred on the Amadiyah area.

20. Between 1147 and 1915 hours on 26 September 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with eight sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah, Baibo and Zakho areas.

21. Between 1203 and 1405 hours on 8 September 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah area.

22. Between 1700 and 1820 hours on 1 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah and Baibo areas.

23. Between 1113 and 1912 hours on 2 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 10 sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah and Baibo areas.

24. Between 0648 and 1754 hours on 3 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with four sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah, Baibo and Zakho areas.

25. Between 1000 and 1817 hours on 4 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 10 sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah, Baibo and Sharanish areas.

26. Between 0720 and 1745 hours on 5 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 14 sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah, Baibo and Zakho areas.

27. Between 1028 and 1735 hours on 6 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 10 sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah, Baibo, Aqrah, Shaykhan and Batufah areas.

28. Between 0658 and 1805 hours on 7 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 26 sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah, Baibo, Batufah, Shaykhan, Aqrah, Mosul Northwest, Tall Afar and Bi'aj areas.

29. Between 0800 and 1805 hours on 8 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with 18 sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah and Baibo areas.

30. Between 0710 and 1000 hours on 9 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with four sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah and Baibo areas.

31. Between 0632 and 0735 hours on 10 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah and Baibo areas.

32. Between 1413 and 1615 hours on 11 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with four sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah and Baibo areas.

33. Between 1545 and 1725 hours on 13 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with six sorties. The violations were centred on the Rawanduz, Amadiyah and Baibo areas.

34. Between 1527 and 1645 hours on 14 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with four sorties. The violations were centred on the Rawanduz, Koysanjaq, Amadiyah, Baibo and Irbil East areas.

35. Between 1106 and 1455 hours on 15 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with six sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah, Baibo and Rawanduz areas.

36. Between 1025 and 1830 hours on 16 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with four sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah, Baibo, Rawanduz, Aqrah and Koysanjaq areas.

37. Between 1228 and 1345 hours on 17 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with two sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah and Baibo areas.

38. Between 0725 and 0800 hours on 19 October 1997 Turkish fighter aircraft violated the airspace of the Republic of Iraq with four sorties. The violations were centred on the Amadiyah and Baibo areas.